

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 05307 01 OF 02 280429Z

61

ACTION NEA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 5307

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SUBJECT: CORONATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. WITH CORONATION OF KING BIRENDRA ONLY TWO MONTHS AWAY EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED INFORMATION ON PLANS AND ARRANGEMENTS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. WHILE THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY ON GON'S PART AND PLANS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL REMAIN ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. WE WILL BE PROVIDING FURTHER DETAILS

AS THE CORONATION APPROACHES.

2. DELEGATIONS

A. ALTHOUGH MFA IS ADHERING TO RULE THAT NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE ON LEADERS OF NATIONAL DELEGATIONS WITHOUT CONSENT OF SENDING STATE, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE EXPECTED TO LEAD RESPECTIVE NATIONAL DELEGATIONS: PRINCE CHARLES AND DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, CROWN PRINCE OF JAPAN, CROWN PRINCE OF THAILAND, PRESIDENTS OF PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA, AND BANGLADESH, THE QUEEN OF DENMARK, AND EAST GERMAN PREMIER STOPT. IT IS WIDELY

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PAGE 02 KATHMA 05307 01 OF 02 280429Z

ASSUMED THAT INDIA WILL BE REPRESENTED BY PRESIDENT OR, IF

POLITICAL TENSION ARISES, BY VICE PRESIDENT. SOVIET EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT USSR WILL SEND ONE OF ITS MANY DEPUTY PREMIERS, AND WE SUSPECT THAT PRC WILL FOLLOW SUIT. OTHER WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HOPE TO BE WELL REPRESENTED PROBABLY AT CABINET LEVEL, (FOR EXAMPLE WEST GERMAN JUSTICE MINISTER) BUT IN MOST CASES REPLIES TO INVITATION HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED.

B. KING HAS PERSONALLY INVITED SLIGHTLY OVER 100 PERSONS, 40 OF WHOM ARE AMERICAN. THANKS TO DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE WE HAVE PASSED ON BULK OF REPLIES TO MFA, ALTHOUGH SOME PERSONS CANNOT BE CONTACTED. AT THIS POINT WE ESTIMATE THAT ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THOSE AMERICANS INVITED WILL ATTEND AND ASSUMING THAT MANY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY WIVES, WE CAN REALISTICALLY EXPECT 40 TO BE PRESENT FOR CORONATION⁰⁹

3. ACCOMMODATIONS: A) DELEGATIONS WILL BE ALLOCATED ROOMS IN THE HOTEL SOALTEE OBEROI AND THE HOTEL ANNAPURNA AS FOLLOWS: DELEGATIONS HEADED BY HEADS OF STATE: ONE SUITE AND THREE DOUBLE ROOMS; BY PRIME MINISTERS, VICE-PRESIDENTS, CROWN RICES: ONE SUITE AND TWO DOUBLE ROOMS; BY CABINET OFFICIALS: ONE SUITE AND ONE DOUBLE ROOM, ETC.

B) HMG WILL PAY FOR ACCOMODATIONS FOR DELEGATIONS AND

OFFICIAL GUESTS FROM FEBRUARY 22 THROUGH FEBRUARY 25. (HOWEVER IF GUEST DARRIVE ON FEBRUARY 21, HMG WON'T QUIBBLE OVER ONE NIGHT'S LODGING.) FOR PRIVATE NON-OFFICIAL GUESTS INVITED BY HM, ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED AT ANNAPURNA AND HOTEL SHANKER. A MEDICAL UNIT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EACH HOTEL FOR ANY PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE.

C) EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION IN GUEST HOUSE FACILITIES FOR UP TO 22 PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH OFFICIAL DELEGATION.

4. TRANSPORTATION: EACH DELEGATION WILL BE PROVIDED BY GON WITH VEHICLE (TOYOTA CROWN) WITH CHAUFFEUR FOR DURATION OF CELEBRATIONS. FONMIN OFFICIAL INDICATFI THAT IF SIZE OF DELEGATION IS LARGE, MORE VEHIPES WILL BE ISSUED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KATHMA 05307 01 OF 02 280429Z

THAT DELEGATION. IN ADDITION EMBASSY CAN MAKE AVAILABLE UP TO 12 SEDANS FOR USE BY DELEGATION AND ATTENDANT STQBF. GON IS NOT PLANNING TO TAKE DELGATIONS OR GUESTS ON TRIPS OUTSIDE OF VALLEY. IF U.S. DELEGATION WISHES TO VISIT POKHARA OR MAKE MOUNTAIN FLIGHT TO EVEREST ADVANCE NOTICE WILL BE ESSENTIAL.

5. FUNCTIONS AND DRESS: FUNCTIONS ARE LISTED BELOW, BUT

NO SPECIFIC TIMES HAVE BEEN STATED AS YET FOR THEM. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CORONATION ITSELF ALL DELEGATION MEMBERS CAN BE EXPECT TO ATTEND. FOR CORONATION HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AND THEIR WIVES WILL BE INCLUDED, AS WILL RESIDENT AMBASSADORS, IF THEY ARE FORMALLY DESIGNATED MEMBERS OF THEIR NATIONAL DELEGATIONS. THE DRESS FOR FUNCTIONS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR NEPALI OFFICIALS AS FOLLOWS: FORMAL DRESS BLACK COAT, WHITE TROUSERS WITH APPROPRIATE DECORATIONS. FOR FOREIGNERS, FONMIN OFFICIAL INDICATED IT WAS UP TO THEM WHETHER BLACK OR WHITE TIE, OR MORNING DRESS APPROPRIATE.

FEBRUARY 23: PM - RECEPTION AT PALACE, DRESS: FORMAL FOR NEPALESE WITH MINATURE DECORATIONS AND ROSETTES. EVENING- CULTURE PROGRAM AT ROAYL ACADEMY HALL NEPALI FOLK DANCES AND PLAY BASED ON LIFE OF FIRST KING OF NEPAL, PRITHVI NARAYAN SHAH. NOTE: THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TIME BETWEEN RECEPTION AND CULTURAL PROGRAM FOR GUESTS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOTELS TO CHANGE CLOTHES.

FEBRUARY 24: AM - CORONATION AT HANUMAN DHOKA; DRESS FORMAL-FULL DECORATIONS/SASH.

PM - PROCESSION FROM HAMUMAN DHOKA TO TUNDIKHEL PARK WITH HIS MAJESTY AND OTHER NEPALESE DIGNITARIES ON ELEPHANT BACK. FONMIN OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT HEADS OF DELEGATIONS WILL ALSO BE ON ELEPHANTS (SIX TO AN ELEPHANT).

EVENING - DINNER AT PALACE, FORMAL DRESS, ONE HIGHEST DECORATION, SASH AND MINATURES.

FEBRUARY 24; LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER AT FOREIGN MINISTRY BUKLDING, DRESS FORMAL WITH ROSETTES.

PM - INAUGURATION OF DEVELOPMENT EXHIBITION AT EXHIBITION GROUNDS. DRESS FORMAL WITH ROSETTES. TEA/RECEPTION ON GROUNDS FOLLOWING EXHIBITION.

EVENING: FAREWELL RECEPTION AT PALACE, DRESS FORMAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 KATHMA 05307 01 OF 02 280429Z

WITH MINATURES/ROSETTES.

6. AIRCRAFT: WHILE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ADVISED WHETHER THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL COME TO KATHMANDU IN ITS OWN AIRPLANE, WE HAVE ASKED THE GON, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE 27004#. TO RESERVE PARKING SPACE FOR A BOEING 707. A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION INDICATED THAT NO PARKING FACILITIES OR AIRCRAFT FUEL WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN KATHMANDU FOR AIRCRAFT LARGER THAN AVRO 748'S OR FOKKER FRIENDSHIPS (F28'S). SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO HAVE OFFICIAL AIRCRAFT OFFLOADED IN KATHMANDU AND PROCEED TO OTHER SITES, SUCH AS NEE DELHI OR CALCUTTA, FOR PARKING AND FUEL. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN DEFINITIVE RESPONSE AND TO GET GON TO FOCUS ON PARKING PROBLEM FOR OFFICIAL AIRCRAFT, WE HAVE SENT NOTE TO

MFA REQUESTING NECESSARY INFORMATION. WITH REGARD TO RUNWAY, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT WORK ON LENGTHENING OF RUNWAY WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE CORONATION, ENABLING TOTAL 10,000 FEET TO BE UTILIZED.

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 05307 02 OF 02 280752Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 KATHMANDU 5307

7. SECURITY: GON IS CURRENTLY INTENSIVELY WORKING ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. BRITISH ADVISOR IS ASSISTING AND WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED BY UK AMBASSADOR FULL RUNDOWN ON ADVISOR'S WORK EARLY IN NEW YEAR. GON PREFERENCE IS TO HAVE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS LODGED IN SOALTEE OR ANNAPURNA HOTELS WHERE SECURITY CAN BE MAXIMIZED. HOWEVER, GON HAS INDICATED THAT HEADS OF DELEGATIONS STAYING AT EMBASSY RESIDENCES WILL BE PROVIDED SPECIAL POLICE PROTECTION. IN ADDITION PASSES WILL BE ISSUED TO DELEGATION MEMBERS FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES IN HOTELS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE PLACES. HEADS OF DELEGATIONS, WHO WILL BE EASILY IDENTIFIED BY RETINUE, ETC., WILL NOT RECEIVE PASSES. BARRING EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH LEVEL USG DELEGATION, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE NEED TO AUGMENT MARINE GUARD DETACHMENT. EMBASSY WILL MAKE SPECIFIC SUGGESTION ON PERSONNEL REQUIRED FOR SECURITY COVERAGE, IN CONSULTATION WITH ROSO, WHEN COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION IS KNOWN.

8. TOURISTS: FONMIN OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT NEPAL WILL NOT BE CLOSED TO TOURISTS. HOWEVER, IF TOURISTS DO NOT HAVE CON-

FIRMED ACCOMMODATIONS BEFORE ARRIVING IN KATHMANDU, THEY WILL NOT BE ISSUED VISAS. (TO OBTAIN VISA THEY MUST PRESENT A LETTER FROM HOTELS/FRIENDS THAT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THEM.) FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS TOLD NEPALESE EMBASSIES THAT TOURISTS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 KATHMA 05307 02 OF 02 280752Z

OTHERS TRAVELING TO NEPAL APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS BEFORE AND TEN DAYS AFTER THE CORONATION SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT NO ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE. TRAVEL AGENCIES HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED OF THIS. NO AIRPORT VISAS WILL BE ISSUED AT KATHMANDU AIRPORT IN THIS PERIOD.

9. MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS: A) GON THINKING ON MEDIA COVERAGE OF CORONATION IS GOVERNED LARGELY BY LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE IN HANUMAN DHOKA WHERE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE, PAUCITY OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS' OWN LIMITED RESOURCES. PRESENT, BUT STILL TENTATIVE, PLANS ARE TO INVITE FIFTY FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. INVITED JOURNALISTS WILL HAVE CONRIEMD HOTEL SPACE AND A GUARANTEED PLACE IN HANUMAN DHOKA. (ONLY FIVE SEATS ARE BEING RESERVED FOR THE NEPALESE PRESS.) INVITATION OFFERS NO OTHER PRIVILEGES AND PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE TO BEAR ALL OF THEIR OWN EXPENSES. GON PROPOSES TO DIVIDE THE FIFTY SEATS PROPORTIONATELY ON A GEOGRAPHIC BASIS WHICH MEANS SEVEN SEATS FOR THE U.S. PRESS. AMERICAN INVITEES WILL PROBABLY BE LIMITED TO THE WIRE SERVICES, TIME, NEWSWEEK, AND THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.

B. TV COVERAGE RIGHTS ARE BEING HANDLED SEPARATELY ON EVEN BROADER GEOGRAPHIC BASIS WITH ONLY ONE TEAM FOR ALL OF WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA. BBX:VISNEWS HAS ALREADY SECURED THIS POSITION. HOWEVER, THEIR AGREEMENT WITH GON INCLUDES STIPULATION THAT THEY WILL SUPPLYHFOOL FOOTAGE TO ANY OTHER INTERESTED EUROPEAN OR AMERICAN TV NETWORK. WE UNDERSTAND NBC ALREADY HAS MADE PLANS TO USE BBC/VISNEWS FOOTAGE.

C. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES OTHER THAN THOS SPECIFICALLY INVITED WILL BE GIVEN ACCREDITATION AND LIMITED FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE BUT WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS TO CEREMONY OR MANY SOCIAL EVENTS. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE TO MAKE THEIR OWN HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS AND SHOULD HAVE CONFIRMED BOOKINGS BEFORE ARRIVING IN KATHMAND.

D. INVITED JOURNALISTS WILL BE HOUSED AT THE CENTRALLY LOCATED HOTEL CRYSTAL WHICH OFFERS ADEQUATE ALBEIT SOMEWHAT SPARTAN ACCOMMODATIONS. TELEX AND TRUNK TELEPHONE FACILITIES WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KATHMA 05307 02 OF 02 280752Z

BE AVAILABLE AT THE HOTEL. THERE WILL ALSO BE DIRECT RADIO LINKS WITH NEW DELHI, TOKYO AND ONWARD AT THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF MILE FROM THE HOTEL.

E. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM THE U.S. PRESS ALREADY EXCEEDS WHAT THE GON WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE. THUS FAR REQUESTS FOR ACCREDITATION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM AP, UPI, RWS NEWS, TIME, NEWSWEEK, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST AND THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER THOSE NOT ON THE LIST OF FIFTY WILL STILL CHOOSE TO ATTEND.

F. WE CAUTION THAT MUCH OF THE PRECEDING IS TENTATIVE. DESPITE THE LATE DATE NO INVITATIONS TO MEDIA HAVE YET BEEN ISSUED, AND ONLY LAST WEEK GON PLANNING UNDERWENT A MAJOR SHIFT. THIS COULD HAPPEN AGAIFL.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT CORONATION DELEGATION WILL IMPOSE SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON LIMITED COMMUNICATIONS AND SECRETARIAL STAFF OF THE EMBASSY (CURRENTLY TWO COMMUNICATORS AND THREE SECRETARIES). WE THEREFORE HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL AUTHORIZE TDY ASSIGNMENT OF ONE SECRETARY, PERHAPS FROM EITHER DELHI OR BOMBAY, FOR PERIOD FEBRUARY 15-28. ROVING COMMUNICATOR BOMBAY ALREADY SCHEDULED L ASSIST EMBASSY DURING CORXIA ION PERIOD.

11. BRIEFING MATERIALS: WE ASSUME THAT BASIC BRIEFING BOOKS WILL BE PREPARED IN THE DEPARTMENT ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA. EMBASSY WOULD BE HAPPY TO SHARE THIS BURDEN, IF DEPARTMENT SO DISIRES. WE WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE AVAILABLE WELCOME KIT FOR EACH U.S. VISITOR WITH TOURIST, MEDICAL AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION. IN EARLY FEBRUARY WE WILL BE SENDING THE DEPARTMENT OUR VIEWS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WHICH MAY COME UP. GON WILL ALSO PROVIDE BRIEFING MATERIALS AND PAMPHLETS TO EACH DELEGATE.

12. THE ABOVE REPRESENTS A COMPOSITE OF WHAT THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO GLEAN FROM GON AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES TO DATE. HOWEVER, BEFORE EMBASSY CAN ELICIT FROM NEPALESE AND PROVIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 KATHMA 05307 02 OF 02 280752Z

DEPARTMENT ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION IT WILL NEED TO KNOW FULL DETAILS ON SIZE AND LEVEL OF U.S. DELEGATION. EMBASSY HOPES THAT DECISION RE U.S. DELEGATION CAN BE TAKEN AS EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR AS POSSIBLE, AS WE ARE RECEIVING INCREASING

NUMZBR OF INQUIRIES FROM GON OFFICIALS. CARGO

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